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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FORMER BALTIMORE CITY SCHOOL BOARD EMPLOYEE  
PLEADS GUILTY TO BANK FRAUD AND MISAPPLICATION OF FUNDS**

**Baltimore, Maryland** - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced that former Baltimore City School Board employee Lewis E. Williams, age 61, of Baltimore pled guilty today to bank fraud and misapplication of funds before United States District Court Judge Richard D. Bennett.

According to the statement of facts contained in the plea agreement, from approximately May 1995 through approximately October 2003, Williams was the Coordinator of Operations for the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners ("School Board"). Williams was responsible for directing the management and maintenance of various school buildings and facilities; granting permits for the rental and use of school buildings and space to outside groups that wished to use such space for meetings or events; and the assignment of maintenance or custodial staff to school buildings at the time of such events. Williams also would collect, on behalf of the School Board, rental payments from the outside groups using school facilities.

According to the plea agreement, beginning in or about April 2002, Williams devised and engaged in a scheme to defraud the School Board and Mercantile Safe Deposit and Trust Company

(the "Mercantile Bank") by diverting money intended for payment to the School Board for rental facilities into a private bank account controlled by him. In furtherance of that scheme, Williams opened a bank account under his own control at the Mercantile Bank in the name of "LE Williams Enterprises" (the "Mercantile Account"). Between approximately April 2002 and September 2003, Williams received various checks from individuals and entities seeking to rent School Board facilities. The checks were written for payment to the School Board and identified the payee as the "Board of School Commissioners" or as the "New Board of School Commissioners." Without authorization or permission from the School Board, Williams deposited or caused to be deposited approximately 218 checks intended for payment to the School Board into the Mercantile Account in the total value of approximately \$220,311.93. In each instance, Williams signed his name on the endorsement line of the check along with the notation "BOSC" or "NBOSC."

Between May 2002 and September 2003, Williams withdrew a total of \$204,928.54 from the Mercantile Account by writing and signing checks on the account for payment for various personal debts or to personal creditors, including, among other things: personal credit card payments, personal mortgage payments and the purchase of personal automobiles.

Williams faces a maximum penalty of 30 years in prison followed by 5 years of supervised release and a fine of \$1,000,000 for bank fraud; and 10 years in prison followed by 3 years of supervised release, restitution and a \$250,000 fine for misapplication of funds. Williams also agreed to forfeit, among other things, a 2003 Cadillac CTS and a 2004 Infiniti FX35.

"This office continues to be committed to investigating and prosecuting fraud by public officials and the misappropriation of public money," stated United States Attorney Thomas M. DiBiagio.

The case is the result of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael Hanlon.